

Amendments to the Claims

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-13 (canceled).

Claim 14 (new). A monitoring unit for an exterior of a motor vehicle in a direction of travel of the motor vehicle, which comprises at least one camera system with an image-recording sensor, said sensor having color encoding in partial areas thereof, and monochrome encoding in remaining areas thereof.

Claim 15 (new). The monitoring unit according to claim 14, wherein said partial areas with the color encoding are vertical stripes and/or areas on a right-hand image edge of said sensor.

Claim 16 (new). The monitoring unit according to claim 14, wherein said partial areas with the color encoding are vertical stripes and/or areas on a left-hand image edge of said sensor.

Claim 17 (new). The monitoring unit according to claim 14, wherein said partial areas with the color encoding are selected from the group of vertical stripes, areas on a right-hand image edge of said sensor, and areas on a left-hand image edge of said sensor.

Claim 18 (new). The monitoring unit according to claim 14, wherein said partial

areas with the color encoding are horizontal stripes and/or areas on a bottom image edge of said sensor.

Claim 19 (new). The monitoring unit according to claim 18, wherein said partial areas with the color encoding on the bottom image edge of said sensor are formed to coincide with a view of a camera onto a road directly over an automobile hood.

Claim 20 (new). The monitoring unit according to claim 14, wherein the color encoding is defined in color-coded stripes and/or areas embodied in a single color.

Claim 21 (new). The monitoring unit according to claim 20, wherein the color encoding is defined in vertical stripes and/or areas with red color encoding.

Claim 22 (new). The monitoring unit according to claim 20, wherein the color encoding is defined in horizontal stripes and/or areas with yellow color encoding.

Claim 23 (new). The monitoring unit according to claim 14, wherein the color encoding is formed in color-coded stripes and/or areas embodied in a combination of two colors.

Claim 24 (new). The monitoring unit according to claim 23, wherein the color encoding includes vertical stripes and/or areas having red and green color encoding.

Claim 25 (new). The monitoring unit according to claim 22, wherein the color encoding includes vertical stripes and/or areas having red and green color encoding.

Claim 26 (new). The monitoring unit according to claim 14, wherein the color encoding is defined in a Bayer pattern.

Claim 27 (new). The monitoring unit according to claim 14, wherein a ratio of monochrome coding to partial color encoding is 60 : 40.

Claim 28 (new). The monitoring unit according to claim 14, wherein a ratio of monochrome coding to partial color encoding is 75 : 25.

Claim 29 (new). The monitoring unit according to claim 14, wherein a ratio of monochrome coding to partial color encoding is 80 : 20.

Claim 30 (new). An assistance system for a motor vehicle, comprising at least one monitoring unit according to claim 14 disposed to registers an exterior in a travel direction of the motor vehicle.

Claim 31 (new). The assistance system according to claim 30 configured for traffic-sign and/or traffic-lane registering.